

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, ASEAN, PP
SUBJ: ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING-SPEECH BY FOREIGN MINISTER OF
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, EBIA OLEWALE,
ATTENDED THE OPENING SESSION JUNE 14 OF THE 11TH ASEAN
MINISTERIAL MEETING AT THE INVITATION OF THAILAND AS AN
OBSERVER. FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE SPOKE ON BEHALF OF
PNG AS WELL AS THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM (SPF), AN ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES. THE NATION REPORTED ON HIS
SPEECH AND HIS PRECEDING INTERVIEW WITH REPORTERS. EXCERPTS
FROM THE ARTICLE FOLLOW.

2. QTE PAPUA NEW GUINEA WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE BETTER
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM (SPF) AND
ASEAN IN THE HOPE THAT FORMAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO
REGIONAL GROUPINGS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE FUTURE,
ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTER OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA,
MR. EBIA OLEWALE.

3. QTE INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE SPF'S SECRETARIAT
AND ASEAN SECRETARIAT STARTED WITH THE INITIATIVE OF
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PAPUA NEW GUINEA IN AUGUST, 1977. "WE THINK THE
MOMENTUM OF THIS INFORMAL CONTACT MUST BE KEPT UP,"
MR. OLEWALE TOLD A GROUP OF REPORTERS DURING AN
INFORMAL INTERVIEW IN PATTAYA YESTERDAY.

4. QTE HOWEVER, HE RULED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN
EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORMAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE

SPF AND ASEAN.

5. QTE "WE ARE STILL NEW TO OURSELVES, WE STILL HAVE TO FIND OUR WAY IN THE INTERNATIONAL THEATRE. WE WANT TO KNOW OURSELVES FIRST," MR. OLESAID.

6. QTE IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE OPENING SESSION YESTERDAY, MR. OLEWALE EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SPF AND ASEAN WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH SIDES.

7. QTE "WE FEEL, TOO, THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE TWO REGIONS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT SUCH AS IN THE FIELDS OF TRADE, ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION."

8. QTE PAPUA NEW GUINEA SHARES A COMMON BORDER WITH INDONESIA. THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA "ARE OF VITAL AND BASIC IMPORTANCE TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA," HE SAID.

9. QTE "WE BELIEVE THAT ASEAN IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. WE ALSO BELIEVE IN THE OBJECTIVES AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASEAN IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND STABILITY THEREBY THE RECOGNIZED NEED NOT TO DISSIPATE OUR ENERGIES AND RESOURCES ON TOO WIDESPREAD
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A PLANE AT THE EXPENSE OF INTERNATIONAL COHESION AND CONSOLIDATION AMONG OUR OWN COUNTRIES. THE FUTURE OF ASEAN LIES THEREFORE IN OUR NEW RESOLVE TO CONSOLIDATE AND EXPAND ON WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AND TO BRIDGE THE REMAINING GAPS NOT ONLY BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES BUT ALSO BETWEEN OUR HOPES AND THEIR EVENTUAL FULFILLMENT."
END QTE

10. FULL TEXT OF HIS SPEECH, ALONG WITH THOSE OF THE OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS ATTENDING THE MINISTERIAL MEETING, WILL BE CARRIED BY FBIS.
WHITEHOUSE

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